

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of assisting a user compose a video work, wherein is provided at least one themed template, each of said at least one themed templates containing a plurality of media cells therein, each of said media cells having a cell theme that is related to the theme of the template containing it, and wherein is further provided a plurality of topically related media clips, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) selecting one of said at least one themed templates;
 - (b) selecting a media clip from among said plurality of topically related media clips;
 - (c) selecting a media cell from among said plurality of media cells in said selected template;
 - (d) storing said selected media clip in said selected media cell;
 - (e) performing steps (b) through (d) until substantially all of said media cells are filled, thereby composing said video work; and,
 - (f) storing at least a portion of said video work on a computer readable medium.
2. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - (g) reading at least a portion of said stored video composition from said computer readable medium; and,
 - (h) viewing at least a portion of said read video composition.

3. A method of assisting a user compose a video work according to Claim 1 wherein said topically related media clips comprise topically related video clips.
4. A method of assisting a user compose a video work according to Claim 3 wherein said topically related media clips further comprise topically related audio clips.
5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein each of said media cells within said selected template occurs in a fixed sequence order.
6. A method according to Claim 3, wherein at least one of said media cells within said selected template contains a preloaded video clip therein, said preloaded video clip being chosen to be consistent with said theme of said selected template.
7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises the step of
 - (e1) performing steps (b) through (d) until substantially all of said media cells are filled with user selected media clips,
 - (e2) rendering said selected template and said media clips contained therein, thereby creating said video work.

8. A method according to Claim 3, wherein step (e) comprises:
- (e1) performing steps (b) through (d) until substantially all of said media cells are filled with user selected video clips, thereby creating a video composition; and,
9. A method creating a video composition, wherein is provided a plurality of topically related video clips and a plurality of audio clips, and wherein is provided at least one themed template, each of said at least one themed templates containing a plurality of themed video cells therein and a plurality of audio tracks therein, comprising the steps of:
- (a) selecting one of said at least one themed templates;
 - (b) selecting a video cell from among said plurality of themed video cells, said selected video cell having a cell theme associated therewith;
 - (c) selecting a video clip from among said plurality of topically related video clips, said selected video clip having a theme at least approximately matching said cell theme;
 - (d) storing said selected video clip in said selected video cell;
 - (e) selecting an audio clip from among said provided audio clips;
 - (f) selecting a track from among said selected template tracks;
 - (g) storing said selected audio clip in said selected template track;

- (h) performing steps (b) through (g) until at least one audio track has been added to said selected template and until at least two of said themed video cells are filled with selected video clips, thereby creating a video composition; and,
 - (i) viewing at least a portion of said video composition.
10. A method according to Claim 9, wherein at least one of said video cells within said selected template contains a preloaded video clip, and wherein said preloaded video clip has a theme that is consistent with said theme of said selected template.
11. A method according to Claim 9, wherein at least one of said audio tracks within said selected template contains a preloaded audio clip, said preloaded video clip having been chosen to be consistent with said theme of said selected template.
12. A method according to Claim 9, wherein step (d) comprises the step of:
- (d1) if said selected video cell does not contain a video clip stored therein, storing said selected video clip in said selected video cell, and,
 - (d2) if said selected video cell contains a stored video clip therein, replacing said video clip with said selected video clip.
13. A method according to Claim 9, wherein step (h) comprises the step of

- (h1) performing steps (b) through (g) until at least one audio track has been added to said selected template and until substantially all of said themed video cells are filled with video clips, and,
- (h2) rendering said selected video template and the video clips contained therein, thereby creating said video composition.

14. A method of assisting a user compose a video work, wherein is provided a plurality of topically related video clips, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing the user with at least one themed template, each of said at least one themed templates containing a plurality of themed video cells therein;
- (b) receiving a selection of one of said at least one themed templates;
- (c) receiving a selection of a video clip from among said plurality of topically related video clips;
- (d) receiving a selection of an video cell from among said plurality of themed video cells;
- (e) storing said selected video clip in said selected video cell;
- (f) performing steps (b) through (e) at least twice, thereby composing a video work; and,
- (g) viewing at least a portion of said composed video work.

15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein each of said themed video cells occurs in a fixed sequence order.
16. A method according to Claim 14, wherein said theme of said themed video template is selected from a group consisting of a birthday celebration, a national holiday, a visit to an amusement park, a visit to a public park, a visit to a national monument, a wedding, a party, and a family reunion.
17. A method according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of said video cells within said selected template contains a preloaded video clip, and wherein each of said preloaded video clips has a theme that is consistent with said at least one video cell that contains it.
18. A method according to Claim 14, wherein step (e) comprises the step of:
 - (e1) if said selected video cell is empty, storing said selected video clip in said selected video cell, and,
 - (e2) if said selected video cell contains a preloaded video clip therein, replacing said preloaded video clip with said selected video clip.
19. A method according to Claim 14, wherein step (g) comprises the step of
 - (g1) rendering said video work, and
 - (g2) viewing at least a portion of said rendered video work.

20. A method according to Claim 14, wherein step (g) comprises the step of
- (g1) rendering said video work, thereby creating a rendered video work,
 - (g2) storing said rendered video work in a computer readable medium, and,
 - (g3) viewing at least a portion of said stored rendered video work.
21. A method according to Claim 14, wherein step (f) comprises the step of:
- (f1) performing steps (b) through (e) until substantially all of said themed video cells within said selected template are filled with video clips, thereby composing said video work.